

Northern Great Plains Network

Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

August 2002

Field Inventories: The field inventories are concluded for this year except for the remote camera work which I'm overseeing (it's my excuse to actually get out in the field!). In early October I hope to relocate the cameras from Mount Rushmore NMEM to Scotts Bluff NM and Fort Laramie NHS. The Principle Investigators for the other inventories will be submitting progress reports this winter.

Synthesis: As discussed in previous emails, the I&M Program funded 2 months of Will Powers' time (Will was a term computer tech at Wind Cave NP) to install and test the software program Synthesis. Will's conclusion is that Synthesis has lots of potential, but may not be ready for prime time, especially on local area networks. It's my understanding that some people at Wind Cave and Mount Rushmore may use the program, but on a limited basis. In spite of this conclusion I was very happy with Will's efforts. I will continue to explore ways to make I&M Program data readily accessible to parks. Will also developed an MS Access database for photographs that is about 90% done (if you have need for such a database contact me in about a month or two).

FY02 Budget and Expenditures: The I&M Program received \$197k in the just completed fiscal year. Of that, 48% was spent on contracts for the field inventories, 40% was spent on program personnel (i.e., myself, Dawn, Jon, and Will), 7% was spent on equipment, supplies, and miscellaneous, 3% was spent on administrative support to Badlands NP, and 2% was spent on travel. This is generally in line with the Inventory Study Plan budget with slightly less on personnel (due in part to Dawn's resignation) and slightly more on contracts and equipment (big ticket equipment items were a laser printer, wildlife observation cameras, and multi-media, a.k.a., Powerpoint projector). If anyone would like to see the complete breakdown please send me an email.

FY03 Budget: The good news is that I fully expect that we will get \$197k for inventory work this fiscal year. The bad news is that I don't expect to get the \$150k I was hoping we would get for jump-starting the monitoring program. The latter means that some tasks I was hoping to complete this year (e.g., establish a Board of Directors, develop a Charter) may have to be postponed.

Technician: Unfortunately, I have not had time to advertise for a replacement for Dawn and Jon. I expect to work on the vacancy over the next few weeks.

Office Location: As mentioned in previous newsletters, I will be moving to Mt. Rushmore. It looks like the move will happen in mid to late October.